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Research Paper

Searching Knowledge Using Key Words in Digital Libraries

Sreedhara. M

Research Scholar, B.K. University,
Bangalore**ABSTRACT**

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) made digital libraries to access information and knowledge to be accessible throughout the world. It is essential on the part of librarians and information scientists to explore the ICT developments, analyze the available knowledge and manage the same so that all the types of users should be accessed using key words.

Introduction:

Technology has made modern society possible. It has increased the human life span and allowed a healthier life. It has added to leisure time and reduced the long hours of work. Technology can allow the world to feed itself. It has reduced the effects of natural calamities such as famines and floods. The world is now smaller place (global village) where people can readily communicate with each other and travel rapidly anywhere. Technology raised the standard of living, at least in the developed nations to a point unimaginable only a century ago. It also created more jobs allowing more employment for human beings.

Libraries are the collection of information sources, which provide information services by different kinds of sources, such as Books, Journals, Conference Proceedings, Pamphlets, Standards, Patents and etc. Basically the traditional libraries were working with printed documents. But due to the development of applications in Information and Communication Technology, the libraries have transformed printed version into digital libraries or virtual libraries, which stores information in electronic form and communicates and disseminate the information through networks.

Developments in Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), the libraries have been integrated at the electronic frontier to facilitate rapid transfer of information on a global scale. Advances in Computer Storage and Telecommunication methods, online access to databases, electronic journals, electronic knowledge banks, direct document delivery, teletext, teleconferences, bulletin boards, CD-ROMs, networks etc., have been the revolutionary developments in the last two/three decades that have brought a great change in communication, storing and handling of information. The digital or electronic resources are dynamic in nature to share information globally and there has been an increased scope for automated delivery mechanism. Libraries today are termed as Digital Libraries and Hybrid Libraries. Knowledge preservation and dissemination have rapidly changed. Unlike simply providing access to holdings in print format, the electronic resources are procured to meet the information needs of the clientele. In the light of Information Bill 2002, it must be the fundamental professional concern of the Librarians to

endeavor to predict, grasp, analyze and materialize such expectations and needs (Gaddagimath, et al, 2006).

The major Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) transformed and developed the library and information services as under:

- ❖ Automation and Mechanization of every function of the libraries;
- ❖ Compact Storage of Information, easy accessibility and faster communication;
- ❖ Subject databases particularly from academic institutions: Increasing number
- ❖ of institutions, especially academic and research institutes are making
- ❖ databases in their specialized subject made available;
- ❖ Automated Library Catalogue: Increasing numbers of libraries are making their Catalogue electronically available over the Internet which may extend the use of library resources.
- ❖ List Serves and discussion groups on a wide variety of topics. Participants have the opportunity to exchange and share current information;
- ❖ Document Delivery Services may be provided electronically using Internet Technology;
- ❖ Electronic Mails allow users to send messages or files to each other;
- ❖ Commercial Information databases are available on the internet include, DIALOG, Lexis-Nexis, Dow Jones News/Retrieval and many others;
- ❖ Telnet or remote login-allowing users to log into remote sites;
- ❖ File Transfer Protocol (FTP) and Hyper Text Transfer Protocol (HTTP) allowing users to access and retrieve files at remote sites;
- ❖ Gopher- a text only, non-graphic method to receive internet documents, which have largely been inter generated into the World Wide Web;
- ❖ The World Wide Web allows users to jump from one resource to another in easier way, without going through gopher style menus;
- ❖ Video-conferencing and Teleconferencing involves linking more than two users, so that participants from different places over the world can see each other and view presentations;

❖ The Consortia like UGC-Infonet provides the information through access to a large number of journals to academic libraries all over the India. Such services are enabled to economize the services from single platform, to avoid duplication of subscription, to strengthen the services of networking and encouraging research and development by providing information in easy accessible way. Open Source Initiatives and Institutional Repositories (Kumbargoudar. et al.,2006).

Of these developments, in the field of library and information science, a digital library is the major transformation of libraries. Due to ICT it has become challenge for the librarians and information scientists on how to manage knowledge so as to enable good searching by using different key words. In this respect, knowledge management is essential.

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT IN DIGITAL LIBRARIES:

The management of knowledge in digital libraries, it involves the identification and organization of knowledge based on different steps. They are:

- Searching or identifying for individual themes. The analysis began with the examination of transcribed utterances. The notion of searching for themes here involves coding. According to Taylor and Gibbs (2010), this coding process enables researchers quickly to retrieve and collect together all the text and other data that they have associated with some thematic idea so that they can be examined together and different cases can be compared in that respect. However, the overall purpose sought here is to identify the potential meanings of each utterance in the transcript and to determine the intensive relations, or potential implications of each utterance.
- Developing each theme previously identified. In this stage, the logical relationships both within and between utterances were explored. Here, each of the themes identified was examined as to relationship between codes, between themes, and between different levels of themes.
- Determining the significance of each theme. The step required to begin judging the relative significance of the themes identified. At this point the focus of attention shifted from the transcripts and towards the themes that were developing. After eliminating redundant observations, those remaining themes were grouped into preliminary conceptual categories.
- Searching for oppositions among themes and thematic categories. Here texts were compared across transcripts and within category classes, and identifying the linkages across category classes and oppositions that were represented by themes within thematic categories. Oppositional principles, which represented conflict within ideology and constituted the choices people made concerning that conflict, were identified. Themes were defined as concepts that provided patterns with both a focus and nucleus around which the informants explained the essence of what was being sought in this research.
- Searching for relationships among thematic categories and grouping related thematic categories in broader classes. After transforming the interview transcripts into a set of thematic hierarchy, analysts compared and contrasted the themes identified in each interview to determine those significant to the social group as a whole.

This technique is hierarchal in nature where units of texts were grouped according to the identified theme categories. Then, each category was further divided into subcategories. From this analytical process, all what was said by the participants was extracted verbatim and organized thematically, analyzed, and is discussed in chapter four, A good qualitative analysis is able to document its claim to reflect some of the truth of a phenomenon by reference to systematically gathered data (Fielding, 1993).

A successful digital library is based on retrieval, storage, communication and dissemination of knowledge across the world and to serve the different types of users. As such, it is essential to assess the user perceptions while enabling good searching by using different key words. In this respect the above stated steps are essentially to be analyzed while organizing and managing knowledge.

CONCLUSION

Knowledge management is core concept of digital libraries on which the searching, accessing and use of knowledge is made by users. The users of digital libraries may be from different countries and their information requirements may be diverse. Hence, general user perceptions along with the technical knowledge should be considered while enabling good searches in digital libraries. For this purpose, it is essential on the part of the librarians to analyze and knowledge and assess the user perceptions and finally enable good searches by using appropriate key words.

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Golden Research Thoughts
258/34 Raviwar Peth Solapur-413005, Maharashtra
Contact-9595359435
E-Mail-ayisrj@yahoo.in/ayisrj2011@gmail.com
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